

In the first Official Office Action the following rejections were stated:

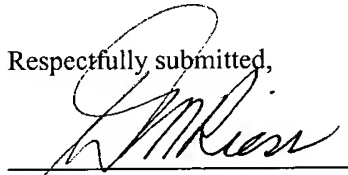
1. Claims 1, 2 and 6 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over either ISHIDA et al. (5,817,427) or WARE et al. (3,546,066) in view of OLSON (4,028,173); and
2. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over either ISHIDA et al. or WARE et al. in view of OLSON, and further in view of CASEY (the Pulp and Paper publication).

Claim 3 was indicated to be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent claim form.

→ Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowed dependent claim 3 and dependent claim 3 has been canceled. Accordingly, the application should be in condition for allowance.

→ For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application, claims 1, 2 and 4-6, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1 (Once Amended). A decorative base paper for decorative coating materials, comprising a pigment mixture of titanium dioxide and talc, [and] wherein the talc has a content of 0.1 to 25 wt%, based on the total pigment content, and a particle size distribution D50 of less than approximately 3.0 μ m.